

A Gospel Worldview
Lesson 6: The Gospel and Politics
Harbor Presbyterian Church – Carmel Valley

Introduction

WCF 19.1 – “God, the Supreme Lord and King of all the world, has ordained civil magistrates to be under him over the people, for his own glory and the public good; and to this end, has armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil-doers.”

- a. God has established every government and all people are subject to that authority (Romans 13:1-7).

- b. The government has been established by God “for his own glory and the public good.”

- c. How should the government exercise the “power of the sword”?

WCF 19.2 – “It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate, when called thereunto: in the managing whereof, as they ought especially to maintain piety, justice, and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each commonwealth; so, for that end, they may lawfully, now under the New Testament, wage war, upon just and necessary occasion.”

- a. Christians may be called and encouraged to hold political office and in so doing, they should govern with godliness, justice and peace.

- b. War is permitted under just and necessary occasion (Romans 13:4).

- c. Criterion for “just war.”
 1. Just authority:
 2. Just cause:
 3. Just intention:
 4. Last resort:

- d. “Just war” includes the following limits:
 1. Proportionality:

3. Which candidates are most likely to provide the best and most Biblical answers to the wrongs that most contradict the nature of God?
 - b. Consider how you go about addressing political issues with your family, friends, and acquaintances.
 - c. Remember that your hope is not in who governs us or what laws are passed, but in the gospel alone.